

DOC NEWSLINE

HQ Hosts Annual Employee Memorial Service and Employee Awards Ceremony



Sec. Stalder presents a Posthumous Award of Excellence to Kurt Comeaux's family, with Brigadier General Hunt Downer looking on.

On Thursday, May 19th, The Department of Corrections held its annual Employee Memorial Service and Employee Awards Ceremony. Secretary Stalder welcomed Louisiana Veterans' Affairs Secretary, Brigadier General Hunt Downer, as the Department's special guest of honor.

During the employee Memorial Service, Secretary Stalder and PCC Warden Jim Rogers recognized those DOC employees who had passed away during the last year. The Department is very appreciative of those who made valuable contributions to public safety.

General Downer joined Secretary Stalder in a salute to our soldiers. Telling the audience that they must never forget the sacrifices of our Armed Forces, General Downer recalled the service of Probation and Parole Officer and National Guard Sgt. Kurt Comeaux. Kurt's wife, Tiffany, his mother, Ann, his sons, Brandon, Brody and Brice and Tiffany's parents were all in atten-



The LSP Honor Guard posts the colors for the Memorial Service.

dance at the Memorial Service. For Kurt's service to the people of Louisiana and to his country, Tiffany Comeaux accepted a Posthumous Secretary's Award of Excellence presented by Secretary Stalder and General Downer. Those DOC employees killed in the line of duty over the years were also remembered. The Louisiana State Penitentiary Honor Guard added a special touch to the Memorial Ceremony by placing a rose at the Memorial wall each time the name of a DOC employee was called. The audience enjoyed several musical selections throughout

the Memorial Service.

Secretary Stalder then commenced the Awards Ceremony. Congratulations and thanks go out to all DOC employees who carry out their daily job in a professional and dedicated manner, especially those recognized during the ceremony.

See page 12 for more HQ awards features.

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LCIW's Exit Audit an Affair to Remember

With the choir leading an audience of inmates, administrators and visitors in song, an ACA reaccreditation exit audit at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women is unlike any you might be used to seeing – at least in Louisiana. This unique experience occurred on Wednesday, May 4th and the audience got what it came for and then some.

The Audit Team praised the cleanliness of the facility and the sheer beauty of the grounds. In fact, audit team member Carmen Matos of Pennsylvania joked that she thought she was at a resort instead of a women's prison because the manicured grounds

were so breathtaking. Audit team Chairman Joseph Rion of Kentucky said it was obvious that both staff and inmates work hard year-round to keep the facility clean and orderly. The team will make a recommendation of 100% compliance with mandatory standards and 98.0 % compliance with non-mandatory standards.

Warden Jones profusely thanked staff and inmates for the hard work in obtaining reaccreditation. After the audit team left with a token of appreciation, the choir resumed its musical celebration. Congratulations to Warden Jones, LCIW staff and inmates for a successful ACA audit.

New Hunt Arrivals



Elayn Hunt Correctional Center's Canine Unit is proud to welcome its newest staff members. EHCC's bloodhound, Georgia, gave birth to 13 puppies on March 30th, 2005. Ten of the puppies survived and are thriving. They will begin their training as members of EHCC's team very soon.

- Information submitted by Angela Whittaker

Job Fairs Help Inmates Learn about Opportunities

Winn Correctional Center held its 7th annual Resource Fair on May 11th. Seven outside agencies and approximately 150 inmates participated. The Resource Fair sponsored by Corrections Corporation of America and the Rapides Job Center of Alexandria, provided an opportunity for those inmates releasing by December 31, 2005 to network with employers in an effort to successfully reenter their communities.

Guests participants included: Dion Boyett from the Small Business Development Center, Edward Hall from the Natchitoches Office of Social Security, Kathy Merchant from the Support Enforcement Services, Ralph Mueller and Waymon Clark from the Natchitoches District Pro-

bation and Parole office, Quincy Hargis and Fae Sanders from LWIA-60 and Vernell Spotsville from the Rapides Job Center.

EHCC: A major element in the reentry



An employer explains options to a releasing offender at WNC's Resource Fair.

formula took place on April 7th, 2005 when the EHCC Education and Religious Departments hosted a Job Resource Fair for approximately 66 general population inmates and 120 IMPACT

trainees.

Exhibitors indicated that the format used this year was the best ever. Each exhibitor had the chance to give a brief overview about their organization, its mission statement and purpose for attending the Job Resource Fair. This enabled inmates to determine whom they wanted to visit within the time allotted.

A working lunch gave the exhibitors an opportunity to network with one another, and to review information about tax incentives available to employers. Tours were offered to interested exhibitors of the religious and educational facilities and programs available at Hunt.

- Information submitted by Dianne Robertson, WNC and Madeline McCaleb, EHCC

Louisiana Special Olympics Games

Special Olympics Louisiana held its annual Law Enforcement Torch Run during the week of May 16th – 20th. The Torch Run consists of Law Enforcement officers from around the state that serve as "Guardians of the Flame." The torch is lit in Shreveport and Monroe and law enforcement officers from across Louisiana take part in guarding the flame until it makes its way to Strawberry Stadium in Hammond for the Opening Ceremonies for the State Summer Special Olympics Games. The caldron is lit by the torch that has been carried by officers throughout the state to kick off the summer games in the same manner as in the Olympic games we've come to know so well.



This year, approximately 500 law enforcement officers participated in the run and opening ceremonies combined. These officers are not only true "guardians of the flame", but they sacrifice personal time to raise funds to support those athletes who may not be able to afford to

participate otherwise. 2005 fundraising efforts for the Law Enforcement Torch Run top \$60,000 so far with a statewide goal of \$250,000. To learn more about this event or other fundraising events held throughout the state, please email Nicki Mitchell at nicki-mitchell@corrections.state.la.us or visit the Special Olympics Louisiana at its website at www.laso.org.

-Submitted by Nicole Mitchell, ALD

NOED's Flanagan plays Pivotal role in Torch Run

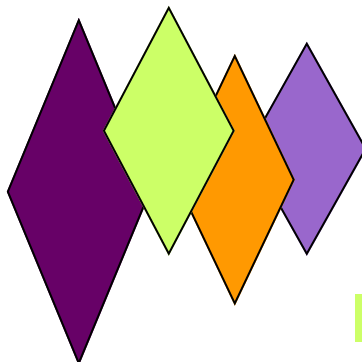
Supervisor Guy Flanagan of New Orleans East District was one of only five law enforcement officers chosen to run the torch into Strawberry Stadium on Friday, May 20th. He and Officer Jeff Quinn ran the final leg of the Torch Run, beginning at the Capitol Steps in Baton Rouge and ending 6.5 miles from there on Florida Blvd. The Torch was then passed to the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office and then to the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies, including Probation and Parole where all participating agencies converged at its final destination.

Officers Flanagan, Tommy Simpson and Jeff Quinn participated in the Mega City area run on Thursday May 19th, making the entire 15

miles from Canal Street by the Mississippi River to the Kenner Police Complex, with 7 other officers from NOED running shorter distances.

Said Flanagan: "It was a great honor to do so (run with ceremonial torch), as these Special Olympics athletes are truly exceptional and the expression on their faces made it all worthwhile!

- Information from Guy Flanagan, NOED



MOD's Hammett Recognized for Fundraising Activities



Mary Hammett, Monroe District Probation and Parole Supervisor with Detective Ricky Ouber, Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office and State Director of the Law Enforcement Torch Run

State Director Ricky Ouber presented Mary Hammett with a plaque in appreciation of her efforts over the last three years with the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Hammett collaborated with several law enforcement agencies to create a Law Enforcement Patch Quilt and raised more than \$4500 for the Torch Run. The Executive Council was blessed to have Mary participate as a committee member. In addition, she has helped with the Northeast Area Special Olympics Games. Congratulations Mary for a job well done!

Special Olympics cont'd ...

VPD Gets Involved in Special Olympics Activities

VPD's Special Olympics Coordinator, Specialist Lula Richardson and P&P Officer Christina Lafleur started an effort in early April to have several local mayors proclaim the week of May 15 – 21 as Law Enforcement Special Olympics Week. On May 11th, Ville Platte Mayor Phil Lemoine and Pine Prairie Mayor Terry Savant signed a joint proclamation declaring just such a week in their respective cities. Attending



the proclamation signing were VPD Specialist Lula Richardson, VPD Officer Christy Lafleur, P&P Region II Director Jacques Coreil, VPD District Administrator Glynn Brown, VPD Supervisor Charles Guillory, Ville Platte Chief of Police Romero Hargrove and Pine Prairie Chief of Police L.D. Deshotel.

- Information submitted by Edolina Riley/
Glynn Brown, VPD

Leading the Pack?

As law enforcement agencies gathered in Alexandria on Wednesday, May 18th, the Alexandria Town Talk covered the event and interviewed ALD's Mike Wynne, one of the Department's two runners participating that day. "The sweat and exhaustion is all worth it," said Wynne, while the reporter noted he wasn't in the front of the pack. Wynne says he's proud to run for the Special Olympics cause. 2005 is the 20th anniversary of the state's Law Enforcement Torch Run.

- Information from the Alexandria Town Talk

PCC Adds to Special Olympics Effort

On May 17th, 2005 Phelps Correctional Center held its 5th annual Captain Herman E. Harris Memorial Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics. The run is dedicated to Capt. Harris, a Phelps employee who lost his life in the line of duty.

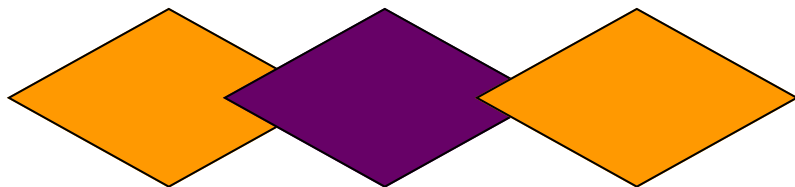
PCC has participated in Torch Run activities for the past 15 years. Each year, officers carry the torch, unlit, from Phelps Correctional Center to the Dequincy football field along a 4-mile route. The PCC Tact Team along with other correctional officers, non-security office staff and interested local citizens make the run.



Participants in the Northwestern Louisiana Torch Run.



Jairo Rivera and Jason Burns participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run from Natchitoches to Alexandria.



LSP's K-9 "Magnum" is Top Narcotics Dog for 2005

Angola Corrections Officer Daniel Firmin and drug detection K-9 "Magnum" posted a score of 350 points to lead a field of twenty-nine competitors from Louisiana and a team representing the Wilkinson County Sheriff's Office (Mississippi) and earned first place in the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections' Narcotic Detection Drug Dog Competition.

Cosponsored by Dixon Correctional Institute and Louisiana State Penitentiary, two days of training and certification by the National Narcotic Detection Dog Association was held on the grounds of DCI in Jackson, Louisiana. The one-day competition was conducted at the Jackson Civic Center on Friday, May 13th.

K-9's and their handlers were required to detect marijuana and cocaine concealed inside vehicles and furniture within 3 minutes. LSP Lt. Colonel Johnny Burt Dixon and DCI Major Joey Harrell coordinated the competition.

Congratulations to Officer Firmin and Magnum as well as other winners.

2nd place: Officer Grey Hernandez and drug dog, Schot from Avoyelles Correctional Center

3rd place: Officer Aldes Ogea and Faldeaux from C. Paul Phelps Correctional Center

4th place: Officer Jamey Norsworthy and Buddy II from Dixon Correctional Institute

5th place: Officer Rawford Benson and Felony from David Wade Correctional Center

Other institutions participating included Washington Correctional Institute, Elayn Hunt Correctional Center, J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center, Winn Correctional Center, Jetson Correctional Center for Youth, Swanson Correctional Center, Baker Police Department and St. James Parish Sheriff's Office.

- Information from Asst. Warden Janet Lorena, DCI

Warden Cain's "Morals" Impressive

Executive Director of the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation, Dr. Ken Ward, recognized LSP Warden Burl Cain for "demonstrating high moral principles in the correctional community." The plaque was presented during a ceremony at the United Methodist Church in Tunica, Louisiana on May 1st. West Feliciana Parish Coroner, Dr. Alfred Gould, nominated Warden Cain for the award.

Warden Cain recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as Warden at Angola, making him the longest serving warden in the prison's history. In his acceptance speech, the warden gave credit to the hard work and dedication of his staff for changing the culture at Angola.

- Information submitted by Cathy Fontenot, LSP

EHCC's Nickens Honored for work with HIV Inmates

Nurse Practitioner Joni Nickens beat out all nominees for "Most Outstanding Nurse Practitioner" as awarded by thebody.com, an extensive online AIDS and HIV information resource. The Advocate newspaper in Baton Rouge ran a profile piece on Mrs. Nickens on May 9th. DOC Newsline wanted to share a little bit of the Body.com's article with you.

"As the HIV authority and primary HIV caregiver at EHCC, Nickens dedicates herself to ensuring that her patients adhere to their medications and

are educated about HIV. She also ensures that her coworkers know the latest information about the virus and its treatment.

"Nickens' humanistic approach to prison HIV care is in sharp contrast to the pervading feeling that inmates don't deserve anyone's help. Nickens realizes, as so many correctional healthcare workers do, that helping prisoners with HIV can be just as rewarding as helping anybody else – and just as good for the community."

- Information from thebody.com

LSP's Lachney Gets National Recognition

The International Association of Correctional Officers has tapped LSP Colonel Blane Lachney as one of its finalists for Correctional Officer Supervisor of the Year. Lachney was officially recognized during a ceremony at Washington, D.C.'s Law Enforcement Memorial on April 30th. Colonel Lachney's 21 years of experience in Corrections is one reason for the recognition. Another reason is his observation and response that prevented an LSP employee from introducing dangerous contraband into the Main Prison.

-Information submitted by Cathy Fontenot, LSP

Congratulations DOC Graduates!

The month of May was full of "Pomp and Circumstance" as several institutions held graduation ceremonies. Here's a run-down.

Angola saw its largest graduating class from its campus of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. 66 inmates earned a total of 114 Associate and Bachelor degrees and the men received their diplomas during graduation ceremonies on Tuesday, May 17th. Although a Baptist seminary, inmates represent many denominational faiths. Angola's Bible College opened in 1995. Graduates are assigned to jobs throughout the prison, which assist in providing moral rehabilitation to fellow inmates. Sometimes they are reassigned to help chaplains with faith-based initiatives at other Louisiana correctional facilities. (Cathy Fontenot)

Thirty-five **Allen Correctional Center** inmates were awarded GED certificates during a ceremony in April. Proving that you are never too old to get an education, one of those was an inmate in his late 60's. This most recent graduating class was one of the largest GED classes since the prison first opened its doors. (Former) Warden Kent Andrews was recognized for his efforts in establishing and maintaining one of the best educational departments in all of the correctional facilities, according to the Kinder Courier-News.



Elayn Hunt Correctional Center's graduation ceremony.

Elayn Hunt Correctional Center hosted its annual graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 11th to formally recognize graduates earning their GED or completing a vocational training program. Those inmates who successfully reached goals in the Adult Basic Literacy program were also recognized. EHCC Graduation 2005 was dedicated to retiring Adult Education instructor, Roberta Tetzlaff, who is greatly responsible for the GED achievement success and who recently retired. Keynote speaker Lola Kendrick, a consultant to the Louisiana Workforce Commission, applauded graduates on their achievements and shared with them how their success contributes to Governor Blanco's mission to provide second opportunities to our citizens for educational growth and workforce training. Since July 1st, 2004, 76 EHCC inmates have earned GED's. Of that number, 48 also completed one of many vocational training programs offered at EHCC. A total of 234 students

completed EHCC and LTC vocational programs, the majority of which also earned industry-recognized credentials and certifications. The annual graduation ceremony is an important aspect of recognizing inmates for their accomplishments and for preparing them to reenter their communities. (Angela Whittaker and Madeline McCaleb)

Avoyelles Correctional Center held graduation ceremonies on May 24th, 2005. Fourteen inmates received their GED's. Thirty-five received vocational certificates. Guest Speaker was Dr. Ronald Mayeaux, Superintendent of Avoyelles Parish Schools. (Myrna Cooper)

For the first time in history, **David Wade Correctional Center** inmates were invited to enter the adult division of the art and poetry contests and the annual Claiborne Jubilee Poetry and Art Show held in Homer on May 14th. Of the hundreds of contestants entered, DWCC inmate Brad Mayfield won "Best of Show" with his poem entitled "Trouble It Seems" and inmate Otis Rainey won second place with his pen and ink original drawing. All entries were proudly displayed at the courthouse square for Jubilee visitors to see. (Kelly Carpenter, DWCC)

One Day with God

Over the past several weeks, Forgiven Ministry Director Scottie Barnes has mobilized hundreds of volunteers to conduct "One Day with God" camps at both Washington Correctional Institute and Elayn Hunt Correctional Center. For those who haven't experienced one of these camps, it is nearly impossible to explain the impact on the lives of both inmates and children, not to mention the volunteers who devote their time and money to pulling off these special visiting opportunities.

Barnes is familiar with the plight of children with incarcerated parents. She grew up visiting her dad in prison and always questioned her father's love for her. Her desire is to reassure children of their father's love and reduce the chance the child will follow in his/her father's footsteps. The day is spent playing games, making crafts and just spending quality time together. There's also lots of great food and treats.



Scottie Barnes preps dads and volunteers before children arrive.

WCI hosted its first "One Day with God" camp in October 2004. The second camp welcomed more than 125 volunteers supervising and supporting 21 fathers and 45 children. In conjunction with the kids' camp, WCI also sponsors a caregiver's seminar at its training center. WCI was the first institution to offer support for caregivers and it has now become an integral part of the WCI plan.

EHCC's camp, held on May 14th, included 11 inmates and 23 children. Approximately 100 volunteers participated as well. Fathers were encouraged to ask for forgiveness for the hurt and pain children may suffer as a result of their absence. Volun-



teers also presented each inmate with a bag full of gifts for their children. At the end of the day, fathers and their children participated in a balloon releasing ceremony to show their love for each other. For the participants, the day provided them with a chance to express to their families how much they still want to be a part of their children's lives. This was more than just a visit, it was a bonding experience. The gratitude and appreciation expressed by the inmates and families involved have been overwhelming.

Incidentally, the camps cost the institutions nothing. The entire tab is picked up by Forgiven Ministry. You can volunteer your time or make a donation by visiting its website at www.forgivenministry.org.

-Information submitted by Kristi Crain, WCI and Dianne Allen, EHCC

JLDCC Hosts Field Trials

J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center hosted the 6th Annual Louisiana Department of Corrections Manhunt Field Trials from April 26th – 28th. Eleven adult institutions participated in the field trials, which consisted of day and night trials through wooded areas on US Forestry land. The trials were one mile in length and one to one-and-a-half hours old. Congratulations to the winning teams.

Total Time

1 st place DCI	00:30:13
2 nd place JLDCC	00:47:58
3 rd place LSP	00:51:49
4 th place WCI	1:00:22

-Information submitted by Asst. Warden Keith Deville



Participants in JLDCC's field trials held in late April.

Number of Victim-Offender Dialogue Facilitators Doubles

Following a week-long training in May, the number of Victim-Offender Dialogue facilitators in the department stands at thirty. This means we can respond to dialogue requests from fifteen victims at a time (facilitators work in teams of two). And, because newly trained facilitators include eight who live north of Alexandria, travel distances and consequent contact time between facilitators and victims and/or facilitators and offenders in the northern half of the state is likely to be reduced.

DOC employees now serving as dialogue facilitators are Annette Arthur/EHCC, David Bahn/SPD, Deborah Bradford/SPD, Gayle Cothell/HQ-OAS, Maria Danna/MOD, Mark DeLaune/THD, Clyde Ennis/DCI, Cathy Fontenot/LSP, Anita Flye/Forcht-Wade, Malcolm Gayfield/SHRC, Bonnie Guillory/PCC, Becky Moss/DWCC, Elizabeth Oliveira/WCI,

Angel Rushing/DCI, Nicole Scott/WNC, Gary Sumrall/LCIW, Dianne Walker/MOD, and Philip Warner/NID.

Volunteer facilitators from other state and local organizations and agencies and private sector enterprises are Debbie Belanger, Henry Bernstein, Maria Early, R. Bruce Galbraith, Linda Grayson, Katherine Green, Joan Hunt, Sue Maestri, Siobhan Pietruszkiewicz, Peggy Russell, Brenda Sinclair and Angela Trainham.

If you'd like to know more about this still emerging program, ask anyone above. It's a volunteer commitment rather than a job assignment, and you'll find most eager to share their experiences and answer your questions. (Jean Wall, HQ CVSB)

JPD Officers Recover Large Cache of Weapons

Acting on a tip, JPD Officers Tobie Lamy, Steven Lassalle and Charles Gantner paid a visit to an offender to conduct a drug screen. They weren't exactly expecting what happened next.

The suspect, Salvador Mourra, tested positive for cocaine and was immediately cuffed and a search of his residence began. After an exhaustive search of the premises, the officers recovered 16 weapons (3 AK-47's, 2 shotguns and 11 various caliber handguns), body armor and NOPD uniforms (Mourra is a former NOPD officer). He also had blank birth certificates with the Texas notary seal on the page. Officers discovered more interesting documents, including a "Special Agent" passport, notebooks with names of individuals and social security numbers and applications to set up new identities.

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, the ATF and the Homeland Security Task Force were all called to the scene, which took a full day to process.

As Regional Supervisor Susan Lindsey points out, this high-risk/high-profile stop demonstrates the level of danger faced by every probation and parole officer as they perform routine field stops.

-Information submitted by Tobie Lamy

WCI Carpentry Students Giving CARE Ministries a Facelift

The non-profit women's shelter in Bogalusa is getting much needed repairs thanks to seven carpentry students at Washington Correctional Center who need some on-the-job training. Having completed much of their classroom work, the shelter repairs provided the inmates with their first opportunity to use their newly acquired skills on a "real" construction project, according to instructor Mark Corkern.

CARE Ministries Director, Mike Moody, called the men a "God-send."

The renovations

were good for the students because their prior experience was with new construction. This project taught them how to replace old wood, upgrade a roof and replace windows in a building that has settled and is far from perfectly square. Inmates were appreciative of the hands on knowledge because they ran across problems not covered in a book and were able to solve them.

- Information provided by Andi Cook and the Bogalusa Daily News

LPPOA Scholarship goes to Pineville Student

Heather Hickey, daughter of ALD Probation and Parole Officer Rhonda Hickey, was awarded the Louisiana Probation and Parole Officers Association 2nd Annual Don Francois Memorial Scholarship for 2005. Heather graduated from Pineville High School on May 16th, with a 3.9 grade point average and also received the Pineville High School History Department award. Heather will attend LSU Baton Rouge in the fall.

- Information submitted by Rhonda Hickey

Grants Brainstorming Session

The HQ Business Office Grants Services staff recently conducted a "brainstorming" session to receive feedback on the most beneficial topics to be addressed at the upcoming Grants Workshop. Judy Martin, the HQ Grants Staff, Suzanne Sharp and program staff members from the various grants throughout Corrections comprised the panel.

After reviewing the 2003 grants workshop evaluation forms and discussing current grant issues, the panel developed a list of possible topics. These include: an illustration of a grants cycle, review of current grant procedures, update on current and pending grants, DOC grants history and overview, DOC grants library, personnel and purchasing updates. Other presentations to be considered will be speakers from a Faith

Based Community, Toastmasters Program, Employee Wellness, State Grants Office update, Work Release Program, Grant Websites, Civil Service, Dept. of Justice, as well as a success story from a past grant recipient.

The grants staff will develop a workshop agenda based on available resources relevant to the suggested topics. An agenda will be published once it is finalized. The panel agreed that attendance from every unit's business office and program staff, including the regional P&P offices, will be essential. The workshop will be held on August 30 & 31 at the Paragon Mari Center in Marksville, LA. Please mark your calendars for this very informative and beneficial event.

- Information submitted by Christy Ball, HQ

We Remember

A Special Edition of the Cajun Connection was published in the form of a Memorial to three valuable employees of Avoyelles Correctional Center. Ms. Flora Lemoine, Sgt. Kristye Grayson and Mr. Nick Bettevy. AVC lost all three employees within a three-month period. Despite the sadness, many felt inspired by the way these three individuals lived with their illnesses. They loved life in spite of its difficulties and insisted on working as long as their illnesses permitted them to. AVC asks everyone to keep them and their families in special thoughts and prayers.

Phelps Correctional Center also grieves for Sgt. Shelton Bertrand who fell ill in late April and passed away shortly thereafter. After retiring as an insulator, he began a new career in Corrections and worked at PCC for eight years. Sgt. Bertrand was a mentor for cadets and always greeted everyone with a smile.

Condolences go out to PCC staff member Sgt. Ambra Stanley, whose 5-year-old daughter was tragically killed in a car accident. Sgt. Stanley was also injured in the crash and the Department joins PCC in wishing her the best during this time of healing.

New Restorative Justice Project Launched in Shreveport/Bossier

With the help of a few friends, Restorative Justice Coordinator Katherine Spears has launched another worthwhile effort in the Shreveport/Bossier City area. The latest initiative is called PRiDE (Partners Releasing Ideas in Different Environments), a community and ecumenical event, taking place in various neighborhoods. The first PRiDE event took place on April 30th, when neighborhood associations focused on cleaning up litter and other garbage to improve the appearance of its residential environment.

Probationers and parolees who have court-ordered or parole board

community service work, as well

Many neighborhoods are uniquely different by race, culture, age, socioeconomic and denominational factors. Each, however, has a common denominator – PEOPLE. The PRiDE initiative is bringing people together to celebrate similarities and improve the quality of life in their specific environments.

Congratulations to Katherine and Shreveport District administrators and officers for their efforts in organizing this key initiative

that has only positive outcomes for offenders and communities in the Shreveport/Bossier area.



From left to right: Louis Stacks, Shreveport District Administrator; LaKendra Evans, GSU student intern; Katherine M. Spears, Restorative Justice Coordinator; Betty Jackson, Forest Oak Neighborhood Association President; Alyce Wyche, SPD P&P Specialist; Emmett G. Wyche, Region One Director and squatting - Bo May, Benton United Methodist Bus Driver

as those who are delinquent in their fees joined active neighbors for a day of work. The neighborhood associations provide food and work tools. Schools and churches have also pledged their support.

DOC Welcomes New FTO's from ALC



Shown sitting are Sgt. Elliot Maricle, Sgt. Richard Ballard, Sgt. Tony Hargrave, Sgt. Jacqueline Limbrick, and Sgt. Robert Tillis. Standing are Training Lt. Brian Soileau, Sgt. Jerry Johnson, Sgt. James Harmon, Sgt. Scylena Bertrand, Sgt. Jimmy Monk, Deputy Warden Keith Cooley, Sgt. James Adkins and Warden Terry Terrell. ALC graduated its first class of Field Training Officers on May 5th, 2005. (Lisa Prudhomme/ALC)

Focus Group Meetings Being Conducted in Small Communities

Following up on last year's successful statewide Focus Group Meetings in major Louisiana cities, the West Baton Rouge District Probation and Parole Office held its focus group meeting on Tuesday, May 24th, 2005 at the West Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse. Local law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, employers and the Governor's Office participated. During the breakout group sessions, information was assembled that would help both Probation and Parole and local groups provide much-needed help to offenders seeking to re-enter society. (Barbara Shaw, WBRD)

Donaldsonville P&P District Opens

On Monday, May 16th at 8:00 AM, the Donaldsonville District Office of Probation and Parole (DVD) opened to the public.



Caption: (Left to right) Monica Aucoin, James Moore, Ann Marks, Norma Eschele, James "Chilly" Russo, Chermis Henderson, Ricky Landry, Wynn Martin, Rosalind Cook-Patterson, Mandie Waguespack

District of Probation and Parole.

We are here to serve the communities that lie within the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. James and St. John the Baptist. We have 14 agents, two agent supervisors and four support staff assigned to work with probationers and parolees that reside in those parishes, or are placed under supervision in the courts of those parishes. We also provide valuable services to the general citizenry of those parishes and statewide in terms of victim services, in addition to general public safety.

We are located literally at the foot of the Sunshine Bridge on the west side of the river in Donaldsonville.

We are very happy to be a part of the local community, and look forward to serving our mission here and statewide.

- Information submitted by Tony Simon, DVD

The office is located at 10115 Frontage Road, St. James, LA and will service the 23rd and 40th Judicial Districts of Louisiana. These areas were previously serviced by the Thibodaux

Editor's note: Congratulations to Tony Simon on his appointment to the new Donaldsonville Office and also to Farrel Veillion, the new District Administrator for Thibodaux.

Editor's Note: Focus group meetings were conducted last summer in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Monroe and Shreveport. Many smaller P&P districts have meetings planned this year.

Honorable Mentions

On Sunday, May 22nd, 2005, Evangeline Parish held its annual Relay for Life event to raise money and awareness in honor of those stricken with cancer and in memory of those who have died of cancer. VPD agent, Lula Richardson participated in the presentation of the flag during open ceremonies and was also one of the bearers of the Relay for Life banner during the relay lap.

The Headquarters Human Resources Staff would like to congratulate Tara Peterson on her recent graduation from Southern University. Tara's Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education came with Honors. She's been a dedicated student worker in the Human Resources Office since August of 2001. Tara begins her career as an elementary school teacher this fall with the Iberville Parish School System.

Angola got a lot of media coverage during the month of May. Radio station KLSP was featured in Billboard's *Radio Monitor* May 6th edition. Wall Street Journal reporter Gary Fields wrote a front-page article in the May 18th edition on an aging prison population and the dignified funeral process inmates receive at Angola. The Boston Globe also printed an article about the Prison View Golf Course on May 17th.

The Haynesville News in Homer brought us news about a new program at DWCC called "Jump Start." It's designed to give releasing inmates an extra advantage upon returning to their communities. Objectives include teaching offenders how to fill out job applications, proper interview techniques, putting together a resume' and help with obtaining a driver's license. "Jump Start" is a project of the Kisatchie Jaycees at DWCC, which is also responsible for donating woodwork and artwork to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

PCC Accountant Jolene Constance participated in the 2005 Career Day at DeQuincy Middle School, speaking to sixth, seventh and eighth graders about a career working for the state and employment opportunities at Phelps Correctional Center. Ms. Constance is a 26-year veteran of Civil Service employment and has been a PCC accountant for more than five years.

HR Corner

LASERS Update

LASERS is proud to introduce "Ask Lasers", a new Internet feature for active and retired members.

You can use "Ask Lasers" to request specific retirement benefit information concerning corrections, disability, DROP, IBO, purchase-of service and much more.

However, it is still necessary to use Form 5-1, "Request for Retirement Benefit Estimate" when requesting a retirement estimate. Please mail the form to LASERS, as they CANNOT accept email or faxed requests.

The LASERS website is www.lasers.state.la.us. (Shannon Templet, HQ)

DOC Employees Recognized

It was Employee Appreciation Week May 2nd – 6th at **Avoyelles Correctional Center**. The Administration met each roll call and presented Service Pins and recognized those chosen for the Warden's Award of Excellence. The Administration also met with eight-hour employees and all employees were served a nice breakfast in appreciation for their work during the year. (Myrna Cooper/AVC)

Allen Correctional Center treated Cor-

rectional Officers to BBQ burger lunches and fried chicken dinners in recognition of Correctional Officers Week April 30th – May 7th. Twenty-four lucky Correctional Officers received Gift Certificates. We wanted to let our Correctional Officers know that they are appreciated! (Lisa Prudhomme/ALC)

C. Paul Phelps Correctional Center held its annual 2005 Employee Awards Banquet on May 6th with over 200 employees and retirees in atten-

dance. Guest speaker was DeQuincy Mayor Jerry Bell and the theme for the banquet was "Riding the Trial to Success." (Asst. Warden JoAnn Peshoff)

David Wade Correctional Center's Human Relations Club honored teachers with a luncheon in honor of National Teachers Week. A plaque was given to each teacher in appreciation for their dedication to the education program. (Kelly Carpenter, DWCC)

New Humana Members must select PCP

The Office of Group Benefits is reminding state employees regarding the importance of selecting a Primary Care Physician for employees and retirees enrolled in the Humana Health Plan. New Humana health plan members MUST choose a primary care physician or Humana will choose one for you. All unit HR offices should have the necessary forms to choose a Primary Care Physician before plans take effect July 1st. Please contact your HR office for more information. (Shannon Templet)

Departmental Award Winners

Correctional Officer of the Year

MSgt. Jerry Williams (PCC)

Support Employee of the Year

Audrey Berry (P&P)

Probation and Parole Officer of the Year

Harrison B. "Butch" Shaver
(Shreveport District)

Supervisor of the Year

Major Lonnie Nail (DWCC)

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Lt. Robert Tycer, III (LSP)
Sgt. Phillip Lachney (LSP)

Secretary's Award of Excellence Recipients

Sgt. Mark Harris (DCI)
MSgt. Linda Magee (DCI)
Asst. Warden Tim Hooper (EHCC)
Sgt. Pamela Bradford (JLDCC)
Deputy Warden Sheryl Ranatza (LSP)
MSgt. Roland Sylvester (LSP)
MSgt. Larry Hills (LSP)
Sgt. Billy Dewalt (LSP)
Margaretta Blades (HQ)
Angela Tauzin (HQ)



Pictured above is the DOC Memorial Wall located at Headquarters.



Members of the LSP Honor Guard remember those killed in the line of duty with a rose.

Employee Awards

WCI

Correctional Officer of the Month (April)

MSgt. Michael Jones

EHCC (May)

Correctional Officer of the Month

MSgt. Linda Krol

Support Employee of the Month

Darlene Walters

Supervisor of the Month

Susan Kean

PCC

Correctional Officer of the Year

MSgt. Jerry Williams

Support Employee of the Year

Carolee Blagrove

Supervisor of the Year

Jolene Constance

Recipient of Certified Corrections

Executive certification:

Asst. Warden Roy Williams

PCC Service Pin

Recipients

30 Years

Harry Hooker

Buddie Weber

Merlin Schales

25 years

Herbert Ragle

Lelon Rougeou

David Clouse

20 Years

John Silman

Michael MCAuley

Preston Shirley

Robert Thompson

John Hooper

Aldes Ogea

15 Years

Cynthia Hebert

Roger Benoit

Brenda Lamberth

Rex Holbrook

John Cloud

10 Years

Rickey Coleman

M. Dean Mitchell

Roderick McClinton

Ethyl Burgess

Jerry Williams

Upcoming Events

Washington Correctional Institute is opening its doors to the public. Warden James Miller and staff realize that the general public, for the most part, is unaware of what goes on behind all the razor wire and iron bars. During the month of June, WCI will hold an Open House, with tours conducted every week-day. The institution normally welcomes civic groups and students throughout the year, but this is really a call for the "Average Joe" to see what it takes to operate a state prison and the professionalism and dedication demonstrated by its employees. (Warden Miller)

The **West Baton Rouge District** is having a "garage sale" on Saturday, June 25th at the West Baton Rouge District Probation and Parole Office. This event is being held to help support our special interest group, Port City Enterprises. This organization is comprised of mentally challenged and handicapped individuals. We raise money to give them special recognition throughout the year (i.e. Easter parties, ice cream parties, Christmas gifts). So come one, come all! (Barbara Shaw, WBRD)

C. Paul Phelps Correctional Center, working in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Labor, is preparing to conduct its first Resource/Job Fair for offenders in August 2005. It is part of a growing focus on rehabilitation to better prepare those individuals leaving prison and returning home to communities throughout Louisiana. PCC's CORE coordinator, Bill Atkins, says the event will provide more than just names and addresses of potential employers. Helping inmates with resumes, cover letters and interviewing techniques will be covered beforehand, so inmates are prepared when they meet employers. (Asst. Warden JoAnn Peshoff, PCC)